

Chapter 5.56

EMERGENCY ALARM SYSTEMS

Sections:

5.56.010	Definitions.
5.56.020	Registration Required.
5.56.030	Registration.
5.56.040	Alarm User Response.
5.56.050	False Alarms.
5.56.060	Automatic Dialing Devices.
5.56.070	Exception for Severely Handicapped.
5.56.080	Penalties.

5.56.010 Definitions.

The following definitions shall apply in the interpretation and enforcement of this chapter.

Alarm business shall mean any business operated by a person which engages in the activity of altering, installing, leasing, maintaining, repairing, replacing, servicing, testing, monitoring, or responding to an emergency alarm system, or which causes any of these activities to take place within the city jurisdiction.

Alarm system shall mean emergency alarm system as hereinafter defined as an assembly of equipment, devices and component, or any one self-contained device, arranged to automatically signal the present occurrence of a robbery or other unlawful intrusion by audible alarm or direct connections to central station, answering service, or direct dialer to which the Lincoln Police Department is expected to respond.

Alarm user shall mean any person, firm, or corporation on whose premises an alarm system is maintained within the city and within three miles of the corporate limits of the city, except for alarm systems on motor vehicles. If, however, an alarm system on a motor vehicle is connected with an alarm system at a premises, the person using such system is an alarm user.

Answering service shall mean and refer to a telephone answering service providing among its services the service of receiving on a continuous basis, through trained employees, emergency signals from alarm systems; and thereafter immediately relaying the message by live voice to an emergency communications center, maintained by local government thereby inducing emergency response.

Automatic dialing device shall mean and refer to an alarm system which automatically sends over regular telephone lines, by direct connection or otherwise, a pre-recorded voice message or coded signal indicating the existence of the emergency situation that the alarm system is designed to detect.

Burglar alarm system shall mean and refer to an alarm system signaling an entry or attempted entry into the area protected by the system.

Central station system shall mean an office to which remote alarm and supervisory signaling devices are connected, where operators supervise the circuits, and where runners are dispatched to investigate signals, and which has been certified as complying with "UL and NFPA" standards for central station facilities, equipment, and operation.

Chief of Police shall mean the chief of the Lincoln Police Department or a duly appointed authorized representative.

Emergency communications center shall mean the combined emergency communications center maintained by the City of Lincoln and Lancaster County in the County-City Building or any other place or location from which elements of the Police Department or Fire and Rescue Department are dispatched.

False alarm shall mean the activation of an alarm system, except those caused by acts of God, including but not limited to extraordinary electrical storms, tornadoes, or floods, or actual emergency to which the Lincoln Police Department gave an emergency response.

Holdup alarm system shall mean and refer to an alarm system signaling a robbery or attempted robbery.

Location shall mean the street address of the premises in which an alarm system is installed.

NFPA shall mean and stand for the National Fire Protection Association.

Primary trunkline shall mean a telephone line leading directly into the communications center maintained by local government that is for the purpose of handling emergency calls on a person-to-person basis, and which is identified as such by a specific number included among the emergency numbers listed in the telephone directory issued by the telephone company and covering the service area within the Police and Fire and Rescue Department's jurisdiction.

Severely handicapped individual shall mean a handicapped individual who has a severe physical or mental disability which seriously limits mobility or communication and who has one or more physical or mental disabilities resulting from amputation, arthritis, blindness, cerebral palsy, cystic fibrosis, deafness, heart disease, hemiplegia, hemophilia, multiple sclerosis, muscular dystrophy, musculo-skeletal disorders, neurological disorders (including stroke), paraplegia, quadriplegia, other spinal cord conditions, or any other condition which causes substantial functional limitation.

UL shall mean and stand for Underwriters' Laboratories. (Ord. 18170 §21; April 28, 2003: prior Ord. 15482 §1; March 5, 1990: P.C. §5.15.010: Ord. 13438 §1; August 30, 1982).

5.56.020 Registration Required.

It shall be unlawful for the owner or lessee or any alarm system to utilize such alarm system without first registering such system with the Chief of Police as hereinafter provided. (Ord. 15482 §2; March 5, 1990: P.C. §5.15.020: Ord. 13438 §2; August 30, 1982).

5.56.030 Registration.

The owner or lessee of any alarm system shall register said system with the Chief of Police, unless said alarm system protects a private residence, in which case no registration shall be required. The registration shall show:

- (a) The name and address of the owner or lessee of the alarm system;
- (b) The name, address, and telephone number of the authorized representative;
- (c) The location at which the alarm system is installed;
- (d) The alarm business servicing the alarm system.

Upon receipt of said registration, the Chief of Police shall keep said registration on file. The Chief of Police shall designate upon such registration the date and time of any false alarms received at that location, and the officers who responded. Said registration shall be open for the inspection of the alarm

user or authorized representative of the alarm user on regular business days, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. at the office of the Chief of Police.

Nothing in this section shall relieve the owner or lessee of any alarm system protecting a private residence from other duties or obligations imposed by this chapter. (Ord. 15482 §3; March 5, 1990: P.C. §5.15.030: Ord. 13438 §3; August 30, 1982).

5.56.040 Alarm User Response.

Upon receiving an emergency alarm signal, the Chief of Police shall immediately notify the alarm user or an authorized representative of the alarm user. Upon being notified of an activated alarm, the alarm user or an authorized representative of the alarm user shall immediately respond to the premises in person without delay. (Ord. 15482 §4; March 5, 1990: P.C. §5.15.040: Ord. 13438 §4; August 30, 1982).

5.56.050 False Alarms.

It shall be unlawful for the owner or lessee of any alarm system to accumulate more than four false alarms, per location, in any twelve-month period. (Ord. 15482 §5; March 5, 1990: P.C. §5.15.050: Ord. 13438 §5; August 30, 1982).

5.56.060 Automatic Dialing Devices.

(a) Except as otherwise provided in this chapter, no automatic dialing device shall be interconnected to any trunkline, terminating in the emergency communications center.

(b) Within ninety days after the effective date of this ordinance, all automatic dialing devices interconnected to a primary trunkline shall be disconnected therefrom. The owner or lessee of such device shall be responsible for having the device disconnected within the ninety day time period.

(c) Persons owning or leasing an automatic dialing device may have the device interconnected to a telephone line transmitted directly to:

- (1) a central station;
- (2) an answering service;
- (3) automatic dialing devices may also be interconnected to one or more telephone numbers available to the owner or lessee of the devices, or their designated representatives, at another location. (Ord. 15482 §6; March 5, 1990: P.C. §5.15.060: Ord. 13438 §6; August 30, 1982).

5.56.070 Exception for Severely Handicapped.

(a) A severely handicapped individual may have an automatic dialing device interconnected to a trunkline other than 911, terminating at the emergency communications center; provided that the individual secures a permit therefor from the Mayor's office. Under no circumstances may the automatic dialing device be interconnected to the 911 trunkline.

(b) Any severely handicapped individual wishing to utilize an automatic dialing device interconnected to a trunkline terminating in the emergency communications center shall make written application for a permit therefor upon forms provided for that purpose by the Mayor's office. Said application shall contain:

- (1) The name and address of the applicant;
- (2) A statement of disability by applicant; and
- (3) A statement from a licensed physician certifying the disability.

(c) Such permits shall be good for one year from the date of issuance and may be renewed by filing a current physician's certification on or before (but not more than one month) the expiration date of said permit.

(d) It shall be unlawful for a severely handicapped individual to interconnect an automatic dialing device to a primary trunkline, terminating at the emergency communications center without such permit being in full force and effect. (Ord. 15482 §7; March 5, 1990; P.C. §5.15.070; Ord. 13438 §7; August 30, 1982).

5.56.080 Penalties.

Any person, firm, or corporation upon whom a duty is placed by Sections 5.56.020, 5.56.030, 5.56.040, 5.56.060, or 5.56.070 of this chapter who shall fail, neglect, or refuse to perform such duty or who shall violate any of the provisions of those sections, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be fined in an amount not to exceed \$100.00.

Any person, firm, or corporation who shall violate the provisions of Section 5.56.050 shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction thereof shall be fined in the amount of twenty-five dollars.

Each day that a violation of this chapter continues shall constitute a separate and distinct offense and shall be punishable as such. (Ord. 15482 §8; March 5, 1990; P.C. §5.15.080; Ord. 13438 §8; August 30, 1982).